DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/31/2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 10-12, 13-15, 17, 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lippelt (US PUB. 2005/0136890) in view of Kiel et al. (U.S PUB. 2003/0027549 hereinafter, “Kiel” and further in view of Hamrick, Jr. (U.S PAT. 5,504,808 hereinafter, “Hamrick”).

Consider claims 1, 13, and 25-27, Lippelt teaches charging against prepaid credit in a communication network, comprising: requesting establishment of a call between a

first terminal and a second terminal (page 2 [0015]); ascertaining whether any costs generated by accounting clients in the network, and associated with the call, are to be charged against prepaid credit (page 1 [0007]); in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, establish an accounting session between the accounting server and the accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against the prepaid credit, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier (see fig. 3 page 5 [0050]); and establish the call with the second terminal (page 2 [0020]).

Lippelt does not explicitly show that the sending charging update data from the accounting client to the accounting server during the call.

In the same field of endeavor, Kiel teaches the sending charging update data from the accounting client to the accounting server during the call (pages 3 and 4 [0033-0036]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use, the sending charging update data from the accounting client to the accounting server during the call, as taught by Kiel, in order to provide a method and system for conveniently monitoring credit level in a client's prepayment scheme account which is then continuously debited in essentially real time for the client's communication activity.

Lippelt and Kiel in combination, fail to teach collating the charging update data in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling

updating of the prepaid credit during the call, where the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier.

However, Hamrick teaches collating the charging update data in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, where the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier (col. 5 lines 21-49).

Therefore, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the disclosing of Hamrick into view of Lippelt and Kiel, in order to provide a secured debit card calling system capable of utilizing relatively low technology, low maintenance distribution devices for preprinted cards, and existing telephones.

Consider claims 2 and 14, Lippelt teaches there are a plurality of accounting clients that generate costs in relation to the call, comprising: establish accounting sessions between each respective accounting client and the accounting server, each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established (fig. 3 page 5 [0050]).

Lippelt does not explicitly show that sending charging update data to the accounting server during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier.

In the same field of endeavor, Kiel teaches sending charging update data to the accounting server during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier (pages 3 and 4 [0033-0036]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use, sending charging update data to the accounting server during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier, as taught by Kiel, in order to provide a method and system for conveniently monitoring credit level in a client's prepayment scheme account which is then continuously debited in essentially real time for the client's communication activity.

Lippelt and Kiel in combination, fail to teach collating the charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

However, Hamrick teaches collating the charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call (col. 5 lines 21-49).

Therefore, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the disclosing of Hamrick into view of Lippelt and Kiel, in order to provide a secured debit card calling system capable of utilizing relatively low technology, low maintenance distribution devices for preprinted cards, and existing telephones.

Consider claims 3 and 15, Lippelt further teaches the accounting server is located in the home network of the first terminal (page 1 [0012]).

Consider claims 5 and 17, Lippelt further teaches configured such that the accounting session identifier is allocated upon receipt in the network of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal (page 6 [0058]).

Consider claims 10 and 22, Lippelt further teaches configured to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit by looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call (page 3 [0028]).

Consider claims 11 and 23, Lippelt further teaches the network is an IP-network (page 5 [0056]).

Consider claims 12 and 24, Lippelt further teaches the network is a UMTS network (page 5 [0048]).

4. Claims 4 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lippelt in view of Kiel and Hamrick, and further in view of Cobo et al. (U.S PAT. 6,496,690 hereinafter, “Cobo”).

Consider claims 4 and 16, Lippelt, Kiel and Hamrick, in combination, fail to teach each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities: SGSN/GGSN; S-CSCF/P-CSCF; and a network application server.

However, Cobo teaches each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities: SGSN/GGSN; S-CSCF/P-CSCF; and a network application server (col. 4 line 65 through col. 5 line 12).

Therefore, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the disclosing of Cobo into view of Lippelt, Kiel and Hamrick, in order to provide a prepaid subscriber service to a mobile subscriber in an integrated wireless telecommunications network having a circuit-switched portion and a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) packet-switched portion.

5. Claims 6-9 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lippelt in view of Kiel and Hamrick, and further in view of Chaney (U.S PAT. 6,947,724).

Consider claims 6 and 18, Lippelt, Kiel and Hamrick, in combination, fail to teach the request for establishment of a call is made via a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) message sent from the first terminal.

However, Chaney teaches the request for establishment of a call is made via a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) message sent from the first terminal (col. 1 lines 16-39).

Therefore, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the disclosing of Chaney into view of Lippelt, Kiel and Hamrick, in order to provide billing a call placed by a user based on a reported traffic load in the network.

Consider claims 7 and 19, Chaney further teaches the charging update data is sent from the accounting clients to the accounting server via a Diameter protocol message (col. 8 lines 1-6).

Consider claims 8 and 20, Chaney further teaches the charging update data is sent from each accounting client to the accounting client in response to a Diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server (see fig. 5 col. 8 lines 7-14).

Consider claims 9 and 21, Chaney further teaches the accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically (col. 8 lines 43-53).

Conclusion

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop_____ (Explanation, e.g., Amendment or After-final, etc.)

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Facsimile responses should be faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-8329. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00Am - 5:00Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Maung Nay A. can be reached on (571) 272- 7882. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Tuan Nguyen/
Examiner
Art Unit 2618

/Nay A. Maung/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2618